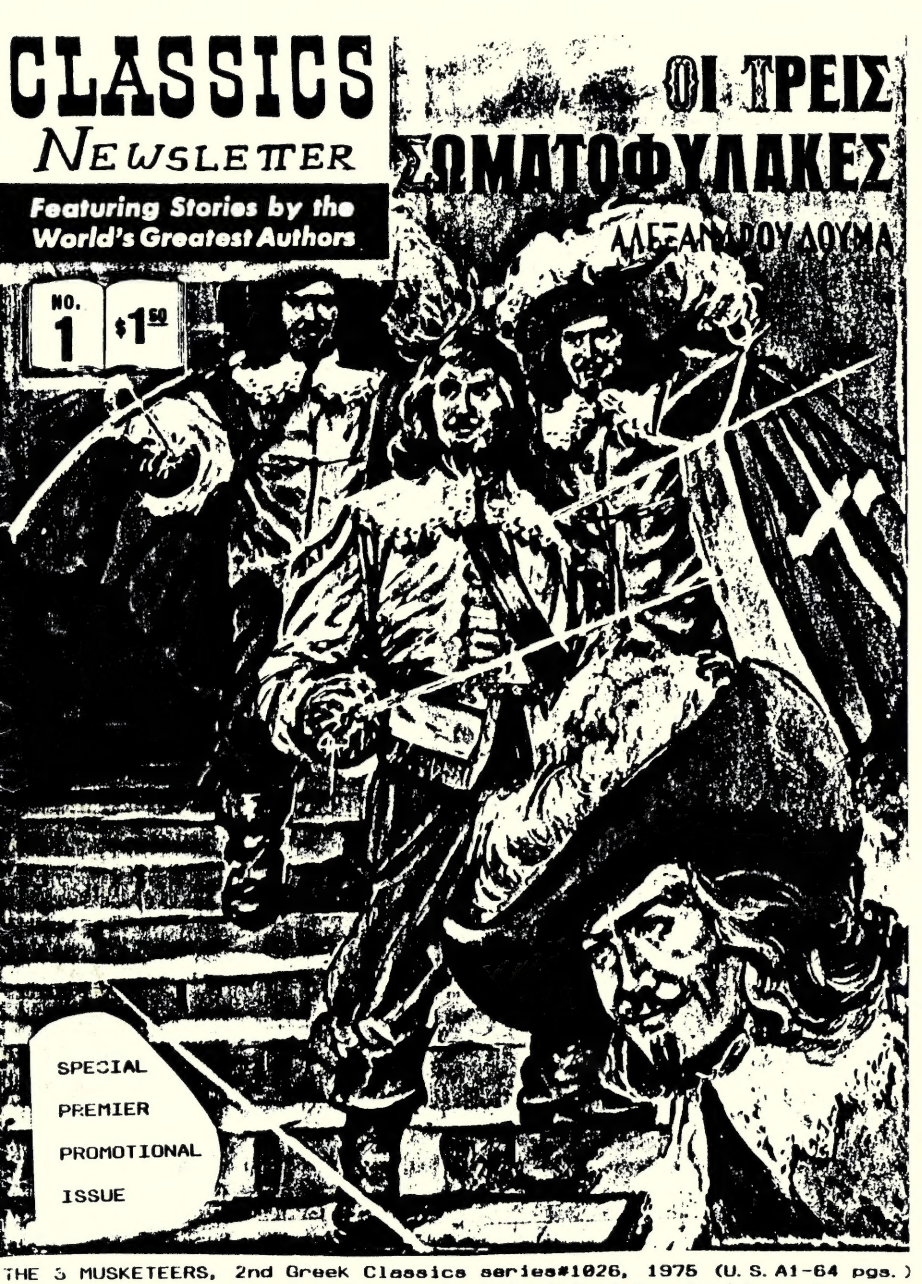


THE 3 MUSKETEERS, 2nd Greek Classics series#1026, 1975 (U.S. A1-64 pgs.)
Does this new Greek painted cover look familiar? See inside back cover.

DAN MALAN EDITORIAL

Greetings and welcome to the WORLDWIDE CLASSICS NEWSLETTER. This premier promotional issue is being circulated to three basic groups of people - 1)diehard U. S. Classics collectors, 2)Classics collectors in foreign countries, and 3)people for whom Classics are a new or secondary collection. Those in the second and third groups are part of our promotional outreach. Even though Classics were issued in over 20 different foreign countries, we have had very little contact with collectors in those countries. We are gradually making contact with those people through foreign comic book publications.

Those of you in the third group are being introduced to the NEWSLETTER through promotional ads in the Comic Buyer's Guide, the Overstreet Price guide, or at a foreign Classics show at a comic book convention. If, after perusing this promotional issue, you are interested in subscribing, see the back cover. For the benefit of those unfamiliar with Classics terminology, here are a few standard abbreviations concerning Classics:

CC = Classic Comics	LDC = Line Drawn Cover
CI = Classics Illustrated	PC = Painted Cover
(O) = First Edition	A1 = Original inside artwork
(R) = Reprint Edition	A2 = Second/new inside art

At this point I should mention why this issue follows so closely to the last issue of THE CLASSICS JOURNAL. There are two reasons. This is a bimonthly publication, with six issues in 1987. This issue is actually a month late, because of the delay in CJ4. WCN2 will be out in May. The second reason is that my first foreign Classics show is at the St. Louis Comic Book Convention March 29, and WCN1 will be distributed there.

The next item on the calendar is my east coast trip, which is now shaping up to be the first three weeks of May. I will head east from St. Louis to New York, and swing up through Canada and Michigan on the way back. There are three purposes to this trip - to visit Classics collectors, to do research on foreign Classics collections for the Worldwide Handbook, and to do foreign Classics shows at comic book conventions where possible. I still need to know additional people I can visit & look at collections, any who can provide a night's lodging, and conventions in your area during that time period. Please let me know so we can get the whole schedule organized.

While future issues will have more diversity of articles, this issue is devoted to a summary and market analysis of U. S. Classics and every foreign Classics series. WCN2 in May will include illustrations of every Classics series logo worldwide, a feature on Doe Mee, the Dutch children's newspaper which serialized Classics in the late 1940's, and a report on the east coast trip. I am still planning a west coast trip in late July and early August.

Before I close, does anyone know the present whereabouts of Deck Bransfield with Twin Circle? He is my last hope to find any old Gilberton records listing the foreign Classics series. Well, I guess I better close for now. See you in May.

CLASSICS CATALOG (order from WCN/Dan Malan)

WORLDWIDE CLASSICS HANDBOOK $4.50 postpaid

Preliminary draft analyzes in detail the worldwide distribution of Classics Illustrated. Information approx. 80% complete, updated in the Worldwide Classics Newsletter. This 65-page work includes individual country series lists and information, plus cross-reference charts for checking out U.S. titles/covers in foreign series, and for comparing the European country series. This draft does not have illustrations, except on the front & back covers.

INTERIOR ARTWORK (black & white xeroxes)

... Individual Titles - each $1.50 postpaid
... Any one of the four sets - 10% discount
... All 65 titles - $75.00 postpaid
... two 2" binders + 65 p.p.p. - $11 postpaid

- All 14 British titles
- All 24 Double Duo titles
- All 12 Classics in Pictures titles
- All 14 Newspaper Classics titles (1947-48)
- English-language version of Typee-A2

All copies are two-to-a-page (8-1/2 x 11) & two-sided, except for the Newspaper editions, which are four-to-a-page. An excellent way to keep them is in two 2" white binders with each individual title in a plastic pocket protector (non-sticking). I can get them at a discount and assemble/ship them in the pockets in the binders. The composite Color Xeroxes coming up next can go in the front of each binder, making two very handsome display volumes.

COMPOSITE COLOR XEROX COPIES - $1.75 each

Two color xerox copies are now available. Each is from a composite 35-mm photo showing covers of 80 foreign Classics. The first one shows all 80 new European titles. The second shows all the new European & Greek covers. Future composite illustrations will show all the Greek History & Mythology titles, all the early Australian series, Toppers in Strip, etc.

CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED
1986-1987 MARKET ANALYSIS

This edition of the Newsletter is devoted to a summary/market analysis of U.S. and foreign Classics Illustrated and related series. This should be of value to anyone involved with the Classics or related series.

In April the new Overstreet Price Guide will be issued. The Classics section will have new or corrected information to alleviate many of the problems with the Classics information in the past, both concerning edition details and pricing. It will have my revised and expanded introduction to the Classics section. It will also include for the first time the listing of the 1947-48 Newspaper Classics, which are very rare and sought after. Perhaps this will give more impetus to dealers to find copies. Bob Overstreet said that there has been a dearth of Classics input for some years now, since Jim Sands departed the scene. More collectors need to write to Overstreet about data/pricing inaccuracies in the price guide.

The summary/market analysis of the foreign Classics series is a completely different ball game. There are two major issues there. One is to let people know about the bountiful garden that is out there. Yes, there are new British covers and titles, but those 25 issues are just a little teasing compared to the several hundred new foreign titles and covers, and the over 4,000 foreign editions issued in at least 16 languages in 30 countries. The second issue is to communicate some idea as to the value of various foreign editions. What is availability and demand for particular items? Can you get the same title/cover from another country much cheaper? Many collectors have hesitated about getting into foreign Classics because they did not really know what they were worth or what sources were available. Foreign Classics are rarer than U.S., but there are sources in many countries. I am making major efforts to locate sources in every Classics-issuing country.

The Classics market in 1986 was definitely thriving. Almost all dealers report supplies being exceeded by demand. Dealers with many years experience in the full range of comics have mentioned that early Classics are very low priced in comparison with other comics from the same time period with similar rarity. They believe there is a great deal of growth ahead in the value of Classics.

It would probably be best at this point to tackle the issue of people saying that prices are too high. Ten years ago collectors were saying that prices were too high. Now it would be like an ultimate fantasy to be able to go back to the prices of ten years ago. Ten years ago #14(Orig)Mint was $35. Chew on that for awhile. I am not trying to offend anyone, but we are all a little hypocritical about pricing. We always feel that prices are too high when we buy, and too low when we sell.

Without beating this issue into the ground, there is a direct relationship between price and availability. You have to make it worthwhile for dealers to seek out, pay for comics, store them, keep track of them, pay expenses, advertise, and take to conventions what you want to collect. Keep in mind that a steady increase in prices means a steady increase in the value of your collection/investment. You are having a lot of fun and making money at the same time. If you do not have mucho bucks, you can still get them in lower grades or get reprints. What kills me is hear people start off saying that prices are too high, and then when you ask them what they are looking for, they tell you they want the first fourteen originals only in strict unrestored NM.

Our collections are an extension of our ego fantasy. It is like a nostalgia dream world, and we have a perfect collection, better than anybody else. But reality hits us upside the head when we have to reach for our wallets to actually pay for our fantasies, or when we see how much we could sell our collections for.

We are presently in the second generation of Classics collectors. There is even a sense of nostalgia about the bygone Classics enthusiasts of the 1970's. Remember when we were searching out every detail about U.S. Classics editions? Remember the fanzines - The Classics Collectors Club Newsletter, The Classics Reader, and the Classics Critique. Remember the early crusaders in Classics collecting - Ray True, Jim Sands, Bill Briggs, Arnie Davis, Mike Nicastre, and many, many more? Where are they? Many people completed their collections a few years back, and have moved on to other interests. I, too, am one of those. I ran out of new Classics to explore about 1980, when I started law school. But a couple of years ago I got turned on to foreign Classics. Once again I find myself a bright-eyed pilgrim searching for the promised land. These dreams that carry us along as we traverse life's tempestuous pathways are also reflected in a little poem I wrote awhile back about my attitude toward life in general, but it also applies to Classics collecting:

S E R E N I T Y

Floating on the clouds
Far above the crowds
Making soft designs
Euphoria is dawning
From peaceful slumber yawning
Its quiet beauty shines

Sweet sereneness
Gentle genius
Like a bird in flight
Warm and tender
Dreams of splendor
Basking in the light

Glossy ads that promise joy
I just return to sender
After all, I'm just a boy
Adrift on dreams of splendor

Sources for U.S. Classics have been rather scarce recently. You really do not see that many Classics ads in CBG. The only conventions I attended were St. Louis and Chicago. There were very few in St. Louis. I bought quite a few in Chicago in 1985, but few of the dealers really replenished their stock the next year.

For the last couple years, the only really extensive and consistent source for Classics has been Bob Levy (no he is not paying me to say this). He puts out a new catalog of just Classics about every two months, with hundreds of people on his mailing list. He is the best source of information about the current status of U.S. Classics collecting. His prices on the early originals and reprints are often above guide, but he tells me they sell well at those prices, which is a good indication of the real market value.

Just recently Calvin Slobodian in Canada has amassed an enormous quantity of Classics for sale, reportedly 20,000 copies. He made major purchases from Doug Sulipa, Phil Levine, Mike Kanter and others, and reportedly payed over $40,000. His first catalog just came out, and he has only had time to catalog copies of 1-19. He does have a very good selection with every original except for 1,5,9 & 13. He also has an enormous selection of engraver proof prints of Classics, Juniors, Specials & WAU, including two items prepared for publication in 1962 but never published in the U.S. - the second art for Typee and WAU#37 The Sea. They were issued in European Classics, however.

The big question with Calvin's Classics is pricing. His prices are very high, many more that double guide. I am very curious to see just how much he will sell. This should be a real test of the Classics market. I think that other dealers would also be watching, to see what level of pricing Classics can actually sustain. I would predict that in a few months Calvin will be offering some discounts to try and move more of his Classics stock, but that other dealers will start raising their prices. It will be interesting to see what happens.

I am not quite an impartial observer in all this. In preparing to take a couple years off to do research toward the publication of the Worldwide Classics Handbook, I stockpiled a large selection of Classics doubles to sell as I needed funds. I do not really want to be a dealer, but I do respond to want lists, and I also use them to trade for foreign Classics. My personal expenses are minimal, but I spend so much on foreign Classics, of which I now have over 2,000. C'est la vie!

More than any other series, U.S. Classics provide the collector with an endless stream of decisions about what to collect. You can go anywhere from a cheap reading copy of reprints of 1-169 for a couple hundred dollars, all the way to a mint copy of every Classics edition, plus every auxiliary item and related series, for well over $20,000 (if you could find them). The main series of choice is still a complete set of originals in FN-MT. Most collectors do also want every cover and logo change, plus the Giants, Boxes, Giveaways, etc., if they could only find them. Classic Comic reprints are also a very attractive item, low priced for rare WWII era items. When the price guide lists a mint run of Classics at $9,100, they do not take into account that almost no one can just stop with that. I have found myself changing my mind so many times about what I really wanted to collect.

Now it is time to get down to specifics. In the coming pages you will see charts and graphs about Classics investment data. I love statistical analysis. I use this analysis to predict future Classics values overall and on specific editions. Some items are worth much, much more than price guide. The price guide cannot keep up with some items because they are almost never offered for sale. For example, if a VF copy of the Robin Hood Saks Giveaway was offered at auction, I predict it would sell for over $500, even though guide listing is a measly $100. Many factors determine value, and we shall try to analyze them all.

Obviously, some items are always in demand. The first 44 originals, titles never reprinted, any Classic Comic reprints, any edition of nos. 8/14/20/21/33/40/43/44, and the auxiliary items - Giants, Boxes, Giveaways, Newspaper editions, etc. Other items are sleepers, going unnoticed until their true rarity is discovered. Nos. 84, 110 & 129 each have only one reprint, and the reprint is much rarer than the original. Those collectors who go after every edition can tell you what is really rare.

Through the years, the Classics market has mirrored the overall comic book market. The established Classics marketplace has existed for nearly 15 years, and can be broken down into three stages. The Overstreet Price Guide first gave Classics thorough treatment in 1973. It is no wonder that information about over 1,000 Classics reprint editions was slow in developing. From 1973 to 1981, reprints were listed in category sections, and since 1982 every Classics edition has been listed and priced separately. The three major period of the Classics market are 1973-1977, 1978-1981, and 1983-1986 (I left 1982 out on purpose, as we are all trying to forget that it happened). Those three periods basically coincide with the changes of the good-to-mint ratio in the price guide. The good-to-mint ratio in 1973 was 1-2; in 1977 in went to 1-3; in 1982 it jumped to 1-6, and since then it has gradually climbed to 1-7 in 1986.

In 1973, a mint run of Classics (originals) listed at $800. In four years it had more than tripled to $2,500. During that time it was not so much that the market grew that fast; the market was actually discovering itself. Most dealers did not understand Classics, and most knowledgable collectors were getting them for a song. Those were the good old days. Oh, the nostalgia of 40% annual return on investment. When the ratio went to 1-3 in 1977, it was an upward market adjustment based on condition. That means that good condition stayed the same value, fine went up 33%, and mint went up 50%. The demand for higher grade copies had begun.

The period from 1977-1981 still appeared to be a very good growth period. A mint run of Classics grew from $2,500 to $5,700, more than doubling. That is an annual increase of more than 20%. But if you recall the late seventies, inflation was eating us all up. It sounds like a good return on investment, but it fades when combined with escalating prices on every hand, and no faith in the future. That resulted in the "crash" of 1982, which was the greatest test of the whole comic book market. Just as 1977 was a positive market adjustment, 1982 was a negative market adjustment, as the ratio went from 1-3 to 1-6. Basically, a mint run of Classics dropped slightly, while fine dropped about 1/3 and good dropped 1/2. Many of us had second thoughts about comic book collecting in general. We say we collect for fun, but it is no fun when you lose a substantial portion of the value of your collection. Some weathered the storm, some bailed out.

I actually feel more content with the current period, 1983-1986. During the last three years the value of Classics has grown at a steady 15% annual rate, and this during a time of very low inflation and interest rates. I really do not think that the ratio increase to 1-7 in 1986 has any real significance, since most important items were actually already at about 1-6.5.

Probably the most important aspect of the value increase in Classics is the proportional value of 1-44(0). In a sense, it is the real Classics market. In 1973, 1-44(0) represented 50% of the value of a mint run of Classics. By 1976, that proportion had grown to 70%. That means that from 1974-1976 what was really happening was that 1-44(0) increased in value almost 50% annually, while 45-169(0) increased 8% annually. From 1977-1981, growth was about equal for both groups. In 1982 a mint run of 1-44(0) stayed even, while 45-169(0) dropped 20%. But 45-169(0) gradually rebounded, and in 1986 equalled 1-44(0) at 16% annual growth. Presently, 1-44(0) represents 78% of the value of a mint run. I foresee a renewed surge in later originals, particulary 45-74(0).

The last three years have seen solid steady growth in the full range of Classics originals and early reprints. The mint run increase for 1984-86 has been 14%, 15% & 16%. I predict the 1987 increase to be about 18% across the board. I look for a mint run of originals to be worth about $10,700 in the new guide. That is why I don't really want to sell anything in the next three weeks. I'm no fool!

Before we get into specific editions, on the next four pages are four charts/graphs to give you a better picture of the growth of a set of originals from a good-fine-mint perspective, and from the 1-44 perspective. The first one is the investment data chart covering 1973 to 1987 (1987 predictions). There in columns you see the Overstreet mint run value, the annual percentage increase, the ranking of Classics among comic book series, the value of a mint run of 1-44(O), the annual percentage increase of same, the proportional value of 1-44 to a complete run, the value of mint run of 45-169, and the annual percentage increase of same, for every year from 1973 to 1987.

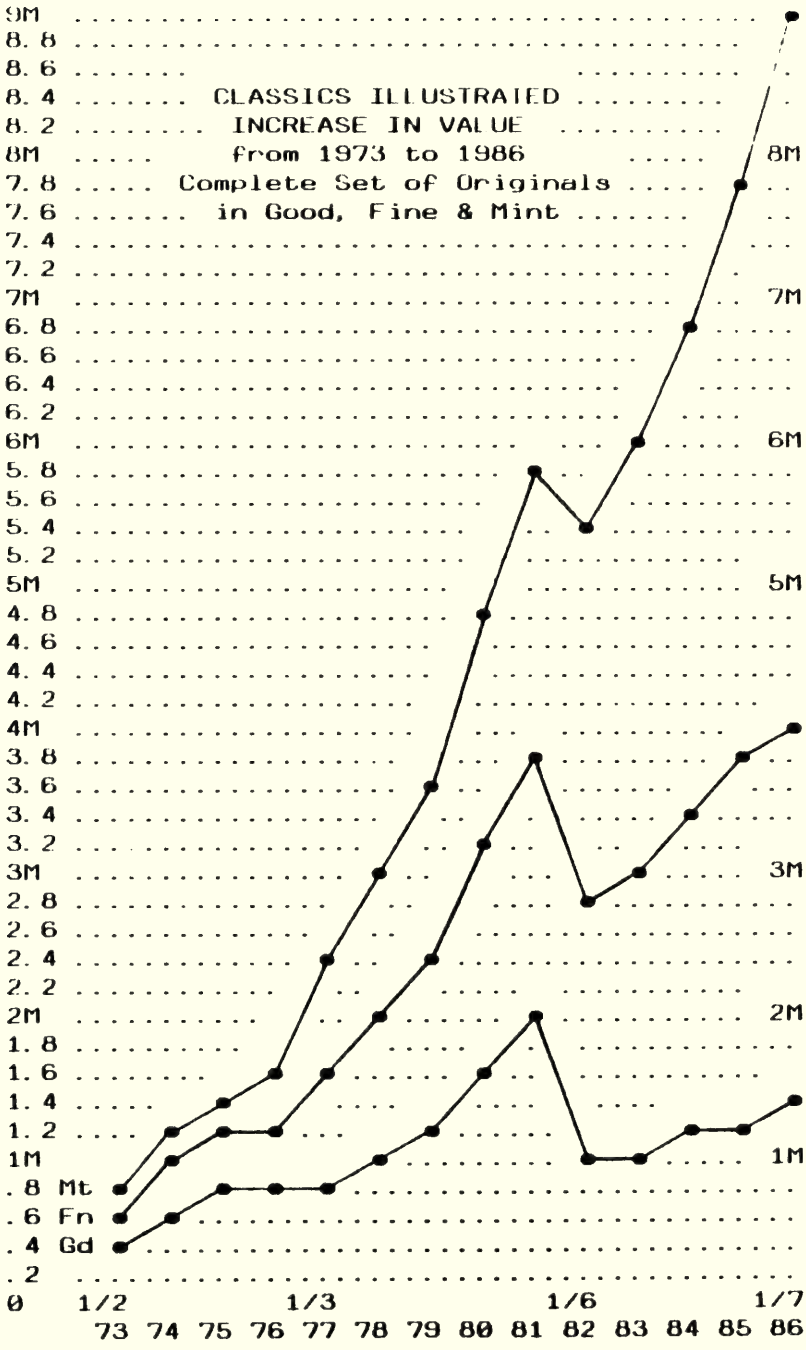
The next one is a graph showing the annual dollar value increase of a set of originals in good, fine, and mint, from 1973 to 1986. There you can see very vividly the "crash" of 1982. But don't be deceived. The real falsehood is in the price levels for 1980 and 1981, like a balloon filling up with inflationary helium, which "popped" in 1982. Also notice that good condition originals have low growth potential.

Following that is another graph showing the proportional growth of 1-44(O)Mint compared to 45-169(O)Mint. In 1973 they had equal value, and you can see where they are now headed. It is worth noting that the latter group still does show an annual growth rate of about 15% over the entire 13-year period.

Lastly is a chart showing the individual values of nos. 1-44(O)Mint from 1973 to 1986. There you can see how growth comes in waves, with surges and lulls, and even an occasional dip. Keep in mind that these are just mint prices, when analyzing ratio change years.

INVESTMENT DATA - CLASSICS ORIGINALS - MINT RUN
(figures for 1987 are predictions from 12/86)
(note on 1986: while the G-F-M ratio did go to 1-3-7 in 1986, it had actually already risen from 1-3-6 in 1982 to 1-3-6.5 in 1985; that is where the G/F figures for 1986 came from)

Year	Mint Run	Series +	Rank	1-44	+	% of Run	45-169	+
87	10740	18%	37	8370	18%	78%	2370	17%
86	9110	16%M	40	7080	16%M	78%	2030	16%M
1-7		11%F			11%F			11%F
		11%G			11%G			11%G
85	7840	15%	42	6090	16%	78%	1750	14%
84	6800	14%	40	5270	16%	78%	1530	11%
83	5940	9%	46	4560	12%	77%	1380	0%
82	5450	-5%M	41	4070	+2%M	75%	1380	-22%M
1-6		-29%F			-23%F			-41%F
		-53%G			-49%G			-61%G
81	5740	22%	29	3980	21%	70%	1760	30%
80	4720	25%	29	3360	26%	71%	1360	24%
79	3610	25%	35	2520	24%	70%	1090	30%
78	2880	16%	41	2040	19%	71%	840	9%
77	2490	48%M	35	1720	50%M	69%	770	45%M
1-3		32%F			34%F			28%F
		-1%G			0%G			-4%G
76	1680	13%	52	1150	15%	69%	530	8%
75	1490	34%	47	1000	50%	67%	490	8%
74	1110	37%	49	660	65%	60%	450	7%
73	820	--	79	400	--	49%	420	--
1-2								


CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED
INCREASE IN VALUE
from 1973 to 1986
Complete Set of Originals
in Good, Fine & Mint
9M
8.8
8.6
8.4
8.2
8M
7.8
7.6
7.4
7.2
7M
6.8
6.6
6.4
6.2
6M
5.8
5.6
5.4
5.2
5M
4.8
4.6
4.4
4.2
4M
3.8
3.6
3.4
3.2
3M
2.8
2.6
2.4
2.2
2M
1.8
1.6
1.4
1.2
1M
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0
1/2
1/3
1/6
1/7
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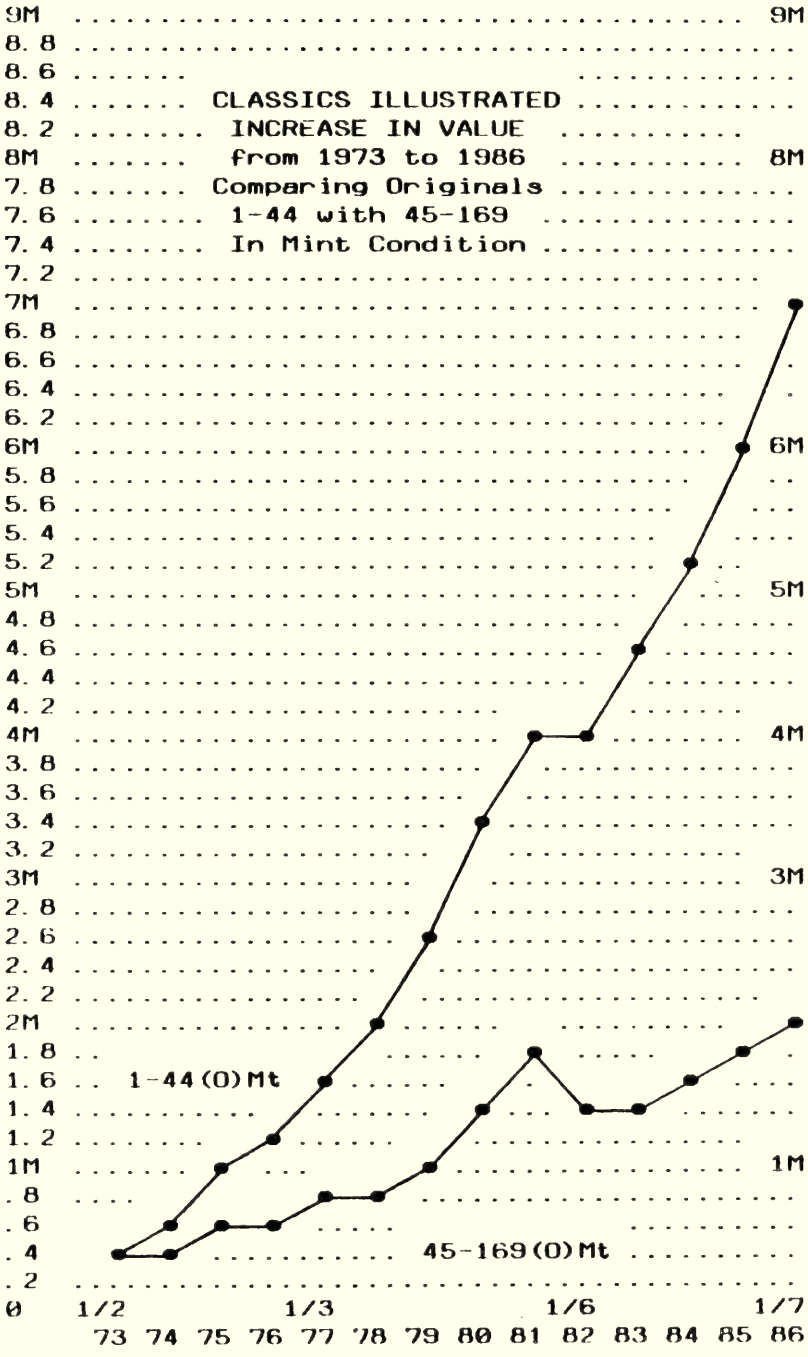
CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED
INCREASE IN VALUE
from 1973 to 1986
Comparing Originals
1-44 with 45-169
In Mint Condition
1-44(O)Mt
45-169(O)Mt
9M
8.8
8.6
8.4
8.2
8M
7.8
7.6
7.4
7.2
7M
6.8
6.6
6.4
6.2
6M
5.8
5.6
5.4
5.2
5M
4.8
4.6
4.4
4.2
4M
3.8
3.6
3.4
3.2
3M
2.8
2.6
2.4
2.2
2M
1.8
1.6
1.4
1.2
1M
.8
.6
.4
.2
0
1/2
1/3
1/6
1/7
73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86

INCREASE IN VALUE OF 1-44(O) MINT

	1/2					1/3 (G/M ratio)			1/6				1/7
(O)	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
1.	25	40	60	100	150	225	240	300	450	450	500	550	625	700
2.	15	30	45	50	90	105	120	150	225	200	240	275	300	350
3.	15	25	40	40	90	75	90	120	180	160	200	235	250	280
4.	15	25	40	40	60	60	75	90	120	120	140	160	180	210
5.	10	20	30	30	60	60	75	90	120	120	140	160	180	210
6.	10	20	30	30	45	48	54	75	90	90	110	130	180	210
7.	10	18	25	30	45	48	60	84	96	96	100	120	140	165
8.	12	25	35	50	75	90	120	180	270	220	240	300	350	405
9.	10	20	30	30	45	50	60	75	90	80	90	100	120	140
10.	10	18	25	25	36	45	53	90	120	100	110	130	150	170
11.	12	20	20	20	36	45	53	75	90	92	100	120	140	170
12.	10	15	20	20	45	60	75	90	105	100	120	140	180	210
13.	10	15	20	20	36	45	45	75	90	100	120	150	180	210
14.	15	25	35	35	75	120	180	225	240	240	260	300	370	420
15.	8	12	20	20	45	45	60	75	90	92	100	110	130	154
16.	8	12	20	20	24	30	45	60	75	72	80	90	110	125
17.	8	12	20	25	24	27	36	51	60	60	80	90	110	125
18.	8	12	20	20	24	30	42	60	75	80	110	130	150	170
19.	8	12	20	20	21	24	30	45	60	52	60	70	80	96
20.	8	12	20	20	24	30	36	54	66	64	70	80	90	105
21.	8	12	20	25	30	45	60	75	90	100	120	140	160	190
22.	8	10	15	15	18	24	30	36	45	48	48	60	70	96
23.	8	10	15	15	21	24	30	36	45	40	38	55	65	80
24.	8	10	15	15	21	24	30	36	45	40	36	45	55	70
25.	8	10	15	15	24	27	36	45	48	54	50	60	70	84
26.	8	10	25	35	36	45	60	75	90	100	120	140	160	190
27.	8	10	15	15	18	21	30	45	48	48	56	65	70	84
28.	8	10	15	15	24	27	30	45	48	48	54	65	75	90
29.	12	18	20	25	27	36	45	60	72	80	100	120	130	140
30.	8	10	15	15	18	21	30	36	45	40	44	56	60	80
31.	8	10	15	15	18	24	30	36	45	40	44	50	54	64
32.	8	10	15	15	24	24	36	45	60	48	42	48	54	64
33.	8	15	25	35	60	70	90	120	150	150	125	140	175	210
34.	8	10	15	15	18	21	30	45	45	48	52	60	65	75
35.	8	15	20	25	30	36	42	45	45	48	54	60	65	75
36.	4	8	8	8	12	15	18	21	24	26	26	26	28	32
37.	4	8	8	8	12	15	18	21	24	24	24	28	30	35
38.	8	10	15	16	21	24	30	36	42	44	48	48	54	64
39.	4	8	10	10	18	21	30	36	42	40	40	40	45	55
40.	6	10	20	25	30	30	45	60	75	80	120	140	160	190
41.	6	18	20	25	30	30	45	60	75	72	80	90	110	125
42.	4	6	8	8	12	15	21	21	24	26	20	20	22	28
43.	10	18	50	80	120	120	120	150	165	160	140	160	180	210
44.	6	12	25	28	24	30	45	60	75	80	100	115	120	140

Now to specific titles/editions. Concerning originals, in the early years nos. 1 & 43 got all the attention and big jumps in value. But by 1977, growth in no. 43 slowed to a crawl and the same for no. 1 after 1981. Replacing them were 8 and 14 from the late 1970's to present. Now I look for their growth rate to slow down. I look for the new big movers to be 1 and 33. No. 1 has actually been a sleeper for the last five years. Can you believe it is only $700 in mint? I look for No. 1 to go well over $1,000 within the next two years. But right now the hottest item is definitely a high-grade 33. This year I look for nearly 25% increase in no. 1 and over 30% increase in no. 33.

The other early original of note is the no. 18-Island Edition. Someone please explain this to me. How can the Gilberton Edition of 18(O) be worth over 60% more than the Island Edition? Nos. 19-22 also have multiple printers, and all of those variations are either very close to or the same as the Gilberton Edition. I have not found 18(O)-Gilberton to be particularly rarer than the Island Edition. I think this is just a mistake that got started a while back and never got corrected. Look for the Island Edition to close to within about 10% of the Gilberton Edition this year or next.

Other than those particular items, I see the growth in originals to be in group surges. The groups I see are nos. 1-9, 10-21, 22-32, 33-44, 45-74, 75-120, 121-149, 150-169. Believe it or not, the fastest growing group in recent years has been 22-32. In the next couple years, I look for the biggest surges to be in 1-9, 45-74, and 150-169. The first few originals are all very rare. Look for big growth there. Also look for 45-74 to make up some of that big recent surge in 33-44. Also, most collections that turn up stop somewhere around 150. Look for the last 20 originals to surge ahead of the early ones. Among the later originals the main sleepers I see are 102, 129 & 168.

One last note. I will never understand how 53 can stay so low priced. They say that the one edition had a huge print run. Oh well.

In my opinion, Classic Comic reprints are the most fascinating and collectible area of Classics. They have the full interior artwork, the covers are very similar to the originals, and they are very low priced, considering how old and rare they are. Many collectors, myself included, want every CC(R) edition.

I see very good growth in the value of all CC(R)s. From my experience I would assert that the rarest edition is 8(14). In fact, I would greatly appreciate it if someone could verify its existence. If anyone has 8(14), could you send me xeroxes of the covers? I have not seen one copy of 8(14) offered for sale in the last few years. If a VF copy of 8(14) was auctioned, it could easily bring double or triple guide. In fact, the first CC(R) edition of each title could easily increase in value 50% in the next couple years. We will discuss the Robin Hood Flour and SaKs editions under giveaways.

I believe that the Line Drawn Cover reprints with the Classics Illustrated logo - LDC(R)s, will increase in value, but much less than the CC(R)s. The early LDC(R)s, those with an HRN (the highest number on the reorder list) below 60 are selling well above guide, but the later editions have only minimal growth potential. Of course, any and all reprint editions of the rare titles - 8, 14, 20, 21, 33, 40, 43 & 44 - will probably sustain high growth rate indefinitely. Other than that, a few particular editions seem much rarer than the others - 3(62), 5(62), 7(60), 7(121), 12(62), 16(64), 22(62), 24(60)/(62), 26(62), 50(114) & 60(62). Also, 55(75) and 57(75) with the coming-next-ad sell well above guide value.

Painted cover reprints - PC(R)s - have very little growth potential. There are too many copies of too many editions available. There are a few exceptions, however. Collectors tend to want the first PC(R) edition of each title. Also, PC(R) editions with old art, Twin Circle editions, and PC2s sell well above guide. Of Look for PC2s in particular to jump up in the guide. I believe the rarest of the PC2s are 39, 49 stiff cover, 60, 134 & 147 stiff cover. I believe the rarest PC1 to be 129(167).

There is very little that compares with the rarity and desirability of Classics auxiliary items. Giants and Gift Boxes keep climbing in value, and this year the price guide will add another Xmas Gift Box, information courtesy of Mike Strauss. This year, pricing on each Newpaper edition section will begin at $20 in mint, but look for that to climb quickly. In a couple years the Miles Standish newspaper section could easily list at $200-$300. Just recently I discovered that the St. Louis Post-Dispatch sections only went up through Julius Caeser. I think next year it would be a good idea to list in the guide which newspapers went up through which titles. The newspapers I know about are the Newark Star-Ledger, the New York Post, the Chicago Sun, the Milwaukee Journal, the Indianapolis Star (black & white), and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (strip format).

Another area I see enormous growth in is the giveaways. How many copies of the Robin Hood Saks 34 giveaway are actually known to exist? Even the Robin Hood Flour giveaway could sell over double guide easily. The Ben Franklin Insurance Co. giveaway is also extremely rare, and the 5-10 Store edition sells well above guide. All the Coward Shoe giveaways are very rare also. I recently discovered a Coward Shoe edition of 112(O), but Jim McLauglin made me an offer on it I could not refuse. Also, the Educational Series could jump way up in value.

Among related series, Golden Picture Classics have been a sleeper for some time. You can look for really big price jumps there. King Classics also sell well above guide. I believe that Fast Fiction#1 is the rarest of that series. Another extremely rare item is Stamp Comics#8. But for low prices, you cannot beat Marvel Classics. I should also mention that this year's guide will correct some non-existent listings, such as 15-A2, 21(55), 79-A2 & 98(166-F68).

In closing this U.S. section, let me mention that foreign collectors are often seeking U.S. Classics that are very rare or do not exist in foreign series. These include 21, 26, 33, 40, 44, 57, 66, 83, 84, 89, 90, 92, 95, 102, 110, 117, 143 & 169.

FOREIGN CLASSICS - MARKET ANALYSIS

Now we come to what I believe to be one of the most needed aspects of Classics collecting, an in-depth market analysis of foreign Classics. For me, foreign Classics were like discovering America. Many years ago, after I first acquired every U.S. Classics title, art, cover, and logo variation, I used to have dreams about finding new Classics titles and covers. I knew about the Canadian reprints and the handful of new British titles and covers. But they seemed so expensive at the time, and very hard to find.

I got back into Classics in 1984, and began corresponding with Roy Von Puckett, who really introduced me to foreign Classics. Now I have come to realize that Roy was the beginning of the second generation or phase of collecting foreign Classics.

Only recently did I find out what had really happened ten years ago. Gilberton sold out to Twin Circle in the late 1960's. In the early 1970's Twin Circle stopped issuing Classics, and concentrated on selling off the Classics warehouse stock. Deck Bransfield and Dan Lyons were involved in this. Part of that stock was the foreign Classics stock. As other countries published Classics, they sent back copies to Gilberton as part of the royalty agreement. Many of these copies had just set in the U.S. Gilberton warehouse for over 25 years, until Twin Circle decided to sell them all to some inquiring Classics collectors. They sold many hundreds of copies at a time (for a song) to those Classics enthusiasts near New York who just happened to be in the proverbial right place at the right time. Those lucky souls included Jim Sands, Bill Briggs, Arnie Davis, Bill Wolf, and Al Heydt. Later, many of those copies were traded or sold to others such as Mike Strauss, Bob Dane, Rich Rostel, Charles Brandstetter, Milo Paces, and John Haufe. Most of the warehouse copies can be identified by the hand-written English title name written above the logo. I am still trying to track down others who have some of those copies.

These copies are very important for several reasons. Mike Kanter and O. B. Stiskin believe that copies of nearly every foreign edition were sent back to Gilberton. If that is true, it is very important to locate those people and those copies. I particularly want to find Deck Bransfield as it is possible that Twin Circle somewhere has some old Gilberton office files that list the details of all the foriegn series. It appears that those warehouse copies are the only copies here in the U. S. for some countries such as Japan, Singapore, Argentina, Brazil, Iceland, and Italy. Has anyone ever physically obtained a copy from any of those countries? Please let me know.

That huge warehouse supply created a bizarre dichotomy concerning availability and value. Those copies came very easily and very cheaply to the lucky recipients, but after that it was like dropping off a cliff. Back in the 1970's, only Bill Briggs that I know of actually had many foreign Classics contacts. There were a couple British sources, but I heard that most of those copies came from the Thorpe & Porter warehouse, similar to the U. S., and that since then British copies have also been very hard to come by.

Now we are in the second phase of foreign Classics collecting. Now we have to physically find sources in each of those countries. Only a very few countries have well-known sources. I am presently using every means possible to try to develop contacts/sources in every one of the countries Classics were issued in. Roy Von Puckett continues to be the most bountiful source of foreign Classics. Dennis Olson was stationed in Europe for many years in the Air Force, and he searched out Classics in many countries, but just for his own collection. There may be others who have personal contacts for Classics in other countries. It is my duty to inform you of one person to avoid like the plague - Wilhelm Uthe of West Germany. He is the scourge of two continents, and those who have dealt with him in the U. S. or Germany regret it. There are other German sources.

Now we will consider some basic principles about the value of foreign Classics. The first important principle is that almost all foreign Classics should be valued in a different price ratio from U.S. comics. Currently U.S. comics are valued at a 1-3-7 good-fine-mint ratio. Most foreign Classics should be valued at a 1-2-3 or 1-2-4 ratio for three basic reasons. One, almost all foreign Classics editions are rarer than U.S. editions. Most foreign issues had smaller print runs, and fewer people saved them. It is much more an issue of obtaining a copy than about only accepting a VF+ copy.

Secondly, foreign comic book price guides use a 1-2-3 or 1-2-4 ratio. The West German, Danish and Norwegian price guides are all in that range. I also have a Dutch comic index, but it does not list values. I have heard that there are also British and French comic book guides, but I have not seen them. Also, there is supposed to be a Canadian guide coming out any time now. Some foreign dealers go by their price guide values, others do not. But it does provide a very good reference point. Foreign price guides are also a good way to find out about stores, dealers, and collectors in any particular country. Other excellect ways to get leads are through foreign fanzine, and the Fandom Directory, advertised at the back.

The third reason for a smaller ratio is all the time, effort, expense, and risk involved in procuring comics from other countries. If you buy from someone here in the U.S., you in effect have to pay for all that they had to go through. Lower condition copies are just not as cheap as here in the U.S. Also, the demand for foreign Classics will never be nearly as great as for the early U.S. originals, so that lowers the mint value. So forces are pushing the mint value down and the good value up.

Before we get into specifics about foreign Classics, on the next page is a list showing current information on all the foreign series. This updates the information in the draft of the Worldwide Classics Handbook.

FOREIGN CLASSICS SERIES

1. Canada (English) A. 1946 (4 CC Titles)
   B. 1948-1951 (70 LDC Titles)
2. Australia (English)
   A. 1947-1953 (72 LDC Titles) (many new covers)
   B. 1953-1966 (168 LDC/PC/E Titles)
3. Brazil (Portuguese) 1948-1960s(?)
   (200+ LDC/PC/New Titles) (many new covers)
4. Netherlands (Dutch) A. 1948-1949/1951
   (30 Doe Mee + De Spaarnestad = 5 Titles)
   B. 1956-1976 (214 PC/E Titles)
   C. 1970-1974 (63 T/S Titles)
5. Greece (Greek) A. 1949-1974 (300 LDC/PC/E/GHM)
   (reprints given new no. or Beta/Gamma)
   B. 1975-1980 (270 LDC/PC/E/GHM Titles)
   (Titles same as "A" series/many new covers)
6. Japan (English/Japanese) 1951 (6+ LDC Titles)
7. Great Britain (English)
   A. 1951-1966 (168 LDC/PC/E Titles)
   B. 1970(?) (12 Double Duos = 24 E Titles)
8. Argentina (Spanish) 1951-1952 (4 PC Titles)
9. Germany (German)
   A. 1952-1953 (8 LDC Issues = 5 Titles)
   B. 1956-1972 (204 PC/E Titles)
   C. 1970-1971, (18 T/S Titles)
10. Mexico (Spanish)
    A. 1952-1956 (70+ PC Titles) (many new covers)
    B. 1956-1971 (160+ PC/E Titles) " " "
    C. 1972-1978 (160+ PC/E Titles) " " "
11. Italy (Italian) 1953-1954 (12 PC Titles)
12. Norway (Norwegian) A. 1954-1956 (10 PC Titles)
    B. 1956-1976 (219 PC/E Titles)
13. Iceland (Icelandic) 1956-1957 (30+ PC Titles)
14. Denmark (Danish) A. 1956-76 (227 PC/E Titles)
    B. 1970-1974 (65 T/S Titles)
15. Sweden (Swedish) A. 1956-76 (228 PC/E Titles)
    B. 1970-1974 (50+ T/S Titles)
16. New Zealand (English)
    1956-1966 (160+ LDC/PC/E Titles)
17. Finland (Finnish) A. 1957-76 (168 PC/E Titles)
    B. 1970-1971 (12+ T/S Titles)
18. France (French) A. 1957-1961 (68 PC Titles)
    B. 1973 (11 T/S Titles)
19. Singapore (Malay) 1962(?) (10+ PC Titles)
20. Belgium (Dutch) 1971(?) (6 PC - star logo)
21. Ireland (Gaelic) 1971 (2+ T/S Titles)

I should point out that you cannot determine the value of all foreign Classics just by what they have sold for. Many titles/editions are almost never offered for sale. For many issues it is just a matter of analyzing and reasoning out why it should have a certain value. Whether a foreign Classics price guide can be a viable entity is dependent on you. If you think some of these price listings are crazy, please tell me. But when you do, please give me what data or reasoning you used to counteract the data or reasoning I used. Once again, we all would like price listings to be very low when we buy and very high when we sell. We must all resign ourselves to just trying to determine what the market is for each item.

Keep in mind that prices vary widely. If you search out your own foreign sources, the price per item will be less. But remember all of the time, energy, shipping expenses, and risk that will then be on your shoulders. We are used to a relatively sheltered environment for dealing here in the U.S. Also, cost will depend on how much a foreign source knows about their true value here in the U.S. I know of some people, particularly in England, who are holding out for extremely high amounts for rare British items. The question is, will anyone purchase them at those prices? The market is simply the average of what collectors would pay for particular items.

If you purchase from abroad, you better plan to buy large quantities at a time, or shipping costs will eat you alive. Price values listed here do not include shipping costs. Also, the prices listed are before any type of discount. Some people will list higher prices, but give a quantity discount. All these are some of the factors that produce variance in price value.

I see a base value for any foreign Classic to be $2-4-6. That ratio should continue up through $10-20-30. After that, higher value starts to spread the fine-mint range. I see a gradual incline to $15-30-50 to $20-40-80. On the very highest items it might spread even more, possibly up to $50-120-270.

Now we get to a really fun part of this endeavor, the TOP 20 list. I particularly want feedback on what are the foreign items you would pay the most for. I will describe them by country, and then list them according to highest value and descending.

First, I believe that three Canadian items would make the list. While some editions are rarer, 11(44) with the CI logo has always been the highest demand Canadian Classic. I would also add nos. 43 & 44, because they each have the full 56 pages, found only in the original U.S. editions.

Next in time order is the early Australian series. Here, Sherlock Holmes would have to be far and away the most valuable item. It is a new horizontal cover with the Classic Comic scroll logo, and the full interior art found only in the U.S. #33(O).

The next series is Brazil. Here I see two very valuable items. No. 9 is U.S. #29 with the horror cover from the unreprinted U.S. (Orig). The other is no. 41 which is U.S. 43 with a new new painted cover.

The next extremely rare item is the Dutch De Spaarnestad one-shot issuing of U.S. #4 in 1951. This oversize item has the U.S. original art in black, white & tan, with a new cover.

We will put the two Greek series together, even though they span over 30 years. The big item in the Greek I series is no. 31, U.S. 43 with a new cover. That same cover was also issued in the Greek II series, but with much brighter coloring. Even though the Greek II series is fairly recent, four items are in big demand. No. 1027 is U.S. 33 with a new painted cover; no. 1131 is U.S. 43 mentioned above; no. 1140 is U.S. 64 with the Classics in Pictures cover with blue background; and no. 1178 is U.S. 44 with a new painted cover.

The German LDC series from 1952 is rare and sought after, the most so being no. 2, U.S. 64.

The early Norwegian series in 1954 is also very rare, with the rarest item being the gift box displaying the first five titles. Try to find a copy of that.

The rest of the Top 20 are in the British or European series. The British issued hardbound Indian & Adventure Giants in 1952. These are probably the most valuable foreign Classics. Then there are three new painted covers - 53, 74 & 135(U.S. 43). That new PC of 53 was only issued in the British/Australia/New Zealand series. There are also three valuable new titles - Baron Munchhausen, Alice through the Looking Glass, and Dr. NO. Foreign language editions would be worth somewhat less.

TOP 20 MOST VALUABLE FOREIGN CLASSICS

1. British Adventure/Indian Giants 50-120-270
2. British Christmas Carol-New PC 40-85-180
3. British Great Expectations-New PC 40-85-180
   (foreign language edition:30-65-130)
4. British Dr. NO 40-85-180
   (European Detective Series:25-50-105)
   (Greek Classics Series:15-30-55)
5. Australian Sherlock Holmes 35-75-155
6. German-I Treasure Island 35-75-155
7. Dutch De Spaarnestad-Last/Mohicans 35-75-155
8. Canadian Great Expect. -LDC/56pgs 35-75-155
9. Brazilian Great Expect. -New PC 35-75-155
10. Greek-I Great Expect. -New PC 30-65-130
    (Greek-II edition: 25-50-105)
11. Canadian Don Quixote CI-LDC 30-65-130
12. Norway - 1954 Gift Box 30-65-130
13. British Baron Munchhausen 30-65-130
    (foreign language edition:25-50-105)
14. Canada-Mysteries/Paris-LDC/56pgs 25-50-105
15. Brazil-Prince & Pauper-CC cover 25-50-105
16. Greek-II Sherlock Holmes-New PC 25-50-105
17. British Midshipman Easy-New PC 25-50-105
    (foreign language edition:20-40-80)
18. British Alice/Looking Glass 25-50-105
    (foreign language edition:20-40-80)
19. Greek-II Mysteries/Paris-New PC 20-40-80
20. Greek-II Treasure Island 20-40-80
    (with Classics in Pictures cover)

MOST VALUABLE SERIES (all titles)
-Classics in Pictures (12 titles) 20-40-80
-British Deluxe Editions (10 titles) 20-40-80

For more detailed information and listings of foreign countries, consult the preliminary draft of the Worldwide Classics Handbook.

CANADA A. 1946 (4 CC titles - nos. 10, 12, 13, 15)
B. 1948-1951 (70 LDC titles)

Summary: The Canadian series is very similar to the U. S. LDC issues. Nos. 1-41 follow very closely the first U. S. LDC reprint. From no. 42 on, the follow the U. S. original edition. No. 42 was later reissued with eight pages deleted. The Christmas Carol was actually issued before the U. S. original edition. The LDC series is missing nos. 12, 35, 36 & 38. Good sources for Canadian are Ken Mitchell, Roland Dion, and Calvin Slobodian (high prices).

Market Analysis: More similar to U. S. prices than any other foreign series. The CC editions would be worth about the same as the first CC reprint edition in the U. S. No. 15 is the most rare of the four. Of the LDC series, nos. 1-42 would be worth similar to the first U. S. LDC reprint edition. Nos. 42-44 with full 56 pages would certainly be valued much closer to U. S. originals. But nos. 45-74 are a little trickier, since there is not the issue of reduced pages. They are in close proximity date-wise to the U. S. originals, but they do not have a next-issue ad. Should they be valued as originals or reprints? Those which were not reprinted in the U. S. would be valued as originals, but the others may be resolved by averaging the prices for the U. S. original and the first reprint. Since there is an active market for Canadian Classics more than most foreign series, could I get more input from those of you searching out the Canadian series?

The Canadian editions are rarer that the U. S. editions, but you also have to factor in the enormous demand for the U. S. "mother" series. Many Classics collectors in Canada, England, and other countries actually desire the U. S. series more than their own.

AUSTRALIA A. 1947-1953 (72 LDC titles)
B. 1953--1966 (168 LDC/PC/E titles)

Summary: The early Australian series has a wide range of interesting features. Besides having so many new covers, there are the many variations in logo design, horizontal/vertical, size, and redrawing U.S. PC(O) titles as LDCs. The have black & white interior art with color covers. The covers are thinner paper, and are difficult to find in the highest grades. Their editions of U.S. nos. 106, 108 & 112 evidently were published before the U.S. (O)s. The second series joined the British series in progress. See the British series for more details. The best Australian source is Roger Morrison, who also provided most of the early series info.

Market Analysis: The early series is quite rare and valuable. I would put a base value of $10-20-30 for any of them. Values go up from there. I would think that CC logo editions, horizontal editions, and new cover editions editions could be in the 12-24-40 range. But some particular titles such as Two Famous Mysteries, Christmas Carol & Midshipman Easy could go as high as 16-32-60. For details on the second series, see the British series.

BRAZIL 1948-1960s(?) (200+ LDC/PC/New titles)

Summary: This is one country I am having a great deal of trouble getting more information on. I believe all copies in the U.S. came from the Gilberton warehouse. I am trying to develop Brazilian sources. Very rare series. The first 20+ were smaller LDC issues. When they began printing larger editions, they also added new painted covers, and then some new titles. What I would particularly like to know is whether the artwork for Captain Blood & Beau Geste is from Famous Authors or not.

Market Analysis: I would guess that these also would begin in the $10-20-30 range and go up from there. We will really have to wait and see when some copies are actually offered for sale.

NETHERLANDS A. 1948-1949 (30 Doe Mee issues)
A1. 1951 (De Spaarnestad one-shot)
B. 1956-1976 (214 PC/E titles)
C. 1970-1974 (63 T/S titles)

Summary: In a future WCN we will have an in-depth article on Doe Mee, the Dutch children's newspaper which serialized Oliver Twist (A1), 20,000 Leagues, Don Quixote & Tom Sawyer (A1), three pages each of two stories at a time. On the last week of 1949 they abruptly terminated the last two stories before the end. Perhaps there was some contract problem with Gilberton. I believe they had already translated Last of the Mohicans, because in 1951 it was issued as a one-shot in the De Spaarnestad comics series. All of these are very rare, and were written up in the Illustrated Stripschrift article on Classics. My two excellent Dutch sources-Adrie Nooij & Klaas de Krijger, managed to get me a complete set of Doe Mee and a coverless copy of De Spaarnestad, as well as several hundred other Dutch Classics. For the "B" series, see the European series section, and for the "C" series see the Star logo series section.

Market Analysis: The two late series are listed elsewhere and De Spaarnestad is in the Top 20 list. I would value each Doe Mee issue at about $12-24-40, based upon their rarity and what I paid for them.

GREECE A. 1949-1974 (300 LDC/PC/E/GHM titles)
B. 1975-1980 (270 LDC/PC/E/GHM titles)

Summary: These are the most extensive series of all. I now have just about complete info on the first series. The two series actually have just about the same titles in each series. The first series began issuing all the U.S. titles as LDCs. Later when they reissued with the U.S. PCs, they gave it a second number, like 5/195, or added a Beta or Gamma, like 14/B. The first series was monthly, the second one was weekly. The second series involved over 60 new covers of U.S. titles, with much brighter coloring. About 25 European titles were in each series.

Each series also had Deluxe Editions. The first series had at least nine Deluxe Edits., each containing four titles, not in any order. The second series Deluxe Editions are a marvel of organization. All 270 titles can be found in 27 Deluxe beauties, each with ten titles in order. And since this series only came out a few years ago, you stand a good chance of finding them. In my opinion, here is the best means of getting a major complete foreign set. The best source for Greek is Roy Von Puckett. Dennis Olson has a large Greek collection that he purchased while traveling in Greece. Most people with early Greek copies got them from the Gilberton warehouse, where they were still selling them ten years ago.

Market Analysis: Early series copies worth more than later series, except for new covers. Regular U.S. PC copies start at $2-4-6 in the GK-II series, $3-6-9 in GK-I. LDCs would start about $3-6-9 in GK-II, $4-8-12 in GK-I. Again, more valuable U.S. titles would be worth more. In GK-I you can find Pompeii & Cellini with c/a same as U.S. (O). Also, early GK-I from the late 1940s/early 1950s would be worth more. They would be low title nos. with low HRNs. New Greek covers vary in value. Some covers are very similar to U.S., just redrawn. But some are very different/beautiful covers. Ones with very similar covers could start at $3-6-9, with the most desirable at high as $10-20-30. Covers borrowed from other countries are also more desirable. See the section of European titles for info on those Greek copies. But the Greek Captain Singleton has a new cover only in the Greek series. I would value it about $14-28-50. Greek History & Mythology titles vary in quality & value. I would estimate the price to vary between $4-8-12 to 7-14-21 for GK-II, and $5-10-15 to 8-16-24 for GK-I. The three GHM that are new c/a for European titles, Alexander/Salamis/Argonauts would probably be about $10-20-30. I would estimate Deluxe to be about 40-50% of the value of the contents.

JAPAN 1951 (6+ LDC titles)

Summary: The first six titles are definitely U. S. 10-LDC/A1, 64-LDC, 18-LDC2/A1, 13-LDC2/A1, 1-LDC/A1 & 12-LDC/A1. There are possibly more, including Sherlock Holmes. These are smaller size, in English with Japanese notes at the bottom. There are also little booklets with the Japanese text only. Very rare series. The only copies in U. S. from Gilberton warehouse.

Market Analysis: About $15-30-55. If there is a U. S. no. 33, it would be worth much more. Japanese text booklets probably $9-18-27.

BRITISH A. 1951-1966 (168 LDC/PC/E titles)
(plus Australia/New Zealand)
B. 1970 (12 Double Duos = 24 E titles)

Summary: British series very hard to follow. Consult order-of-publication chart in draft of Worldwide Handbook. A Gift Box advertised in 1952 probably does not exist. Consult European sections for new covers/titles. Probably all early British LDCs were issued in Australia, even though it joined in 1953. But New Zealand joined about 1956, and it is difficult to tell how many early editions were issued there. New Zealand copies are much rarer/more valuable. In 1953/1954 ten British titles - 15, 18, 78, 82, 89, 104, 106, 107, 108, 112 were each made into a hardbound Deluxe Edition with a new painted cover wrapping around the front & back. See the Top 20 List. Double Duos were small-size black & white translation reprints of two new European titles. Source available varies.

Market Analysis: First 19 stiff-cover LDCs from 1951/1952 more valuable, starting about $9-18-27, with 14, 40 & 74 about $19-38-75. Later reprints worth less. Other LDCs start about $3-6-9 and go up, depending on title. Early PCs before 1955 (HRN below 125) worth more, about $4-8-12, but later regular PCs go down to $2-4-6. As always, higher value U. S. item worth more. Double Duos probably about $10-20-30. British is the biggest demand country after Canada.

ARGENTINA 1952 (4 PC titles)

Summary: Very rare series. The only copies I know of are Mike Strauss' Gilberton warehouse copies. They are small-size with new painted covers - US. nos. 76, 82, 60-A1 & 13-A1. Efforts are underway to try to develop sources.

Market Analysis: probably $15-30-55.

GERMANY A. 1952-1953 (8 LDC issues - 5 titles)
B. 1956-1972 (204 PC/E titles)
C. 1970-1971 (18 T/S titles)

Summary: Information on the second and third series will be in the European and Star logo sections. The early German series is rare and highly sought after. The German price guide has recently developed highly inflated prices for many Classics. In the regular series U. S. PC editions of 9, 12, 23, 45, 65, 158, 160; Special issues Crossing the Rockies & Men, Guns, and Cattle; WAU The Pirates; and Baron Munchhausen are each priced at hundreds of dollars U. S. I look for brisk trading to develop for U. S. editions of those titles. Germany has priced itself out of the market on most Classics, which can be found for much lower prices in nearby Dutch & Danish series. But the German LDC series is unique to Germany. So we are stuck there. Also, Germany issued several Extraband/Sammelband editions similar to Deluxe Editions that have several Classics bound together. These are rare and desirable, but not listed in their price guide, for which we can all be thankful. One last German item, in 1973 the Eurocomics series issued Tale of Two Cities with U. S. PC2/A2 in English and German at the same time. Also a rare item. Germany has the most thriving comic book market and information compilation in Europe.

Market Analysis: One of the LDC series made the Top 20 List. The other seven issues will probably cost you at least $17-34-65 each. The Extraband/Sammelband Editions are probably worth about $13-26-45 each, and the Eurocomics CI edition about $14-28-50.

MEXICO A. 1952-1956 (70+ PC titles)
B. 1956-1971 (160+ PC titles)
C. 1972-1978 (160+ PC titles)

Summary: See the European Titles section for information & pricing on the 40 or so Mexican editions of the new European titles, some of which had redrawn but very similar covers. The Mexican Classics organization was very big on doing their own covers. They made new painted covers instead of using U. S. LDCs in the early series, and after U. S. PCs came out, they had them redrawn almost identical to the U. S. PCs. Apparently titles are the same for all series, but I have not seen enough copies to know for sure. The three series can be distinguished by dates, prices, and "Segunda Edicion" on the second series front cover. Many later editions have poor printing quality.

Market Analysis: Copies usually come cheap, if you can find them. Value: $3-6-9 for U. S. PCs/redrawn; new covers 9-18-27 first series, $7-14-21 in second series, $5-10-15 in third series, with more valuable U. S. titles higher.

ITALY 1953-1954 (12 PC titles)

Summary: Eleven U. S. titles with new Italian covers - 80, 25, 2-A1, 37, 15, 64, 85, 31, 26, 72 & 46, plus one new Italian title with beautiful art - Ettore di Fieramosca. All know copies in U. S. from Gilberton warehouse.

Market Analysis: $15-30-55 for new title; $11-22-35 for all the others.

NORWAY A. 1954-1956 (10 PC titles)
B. 1956-1976 (219 PC/E titles)

Summary: See European section for "B" series. Early series all U. S. titles with new Norwegian covers except for last one: 17, 48, 74, 60-A1, 27, 49, 24, 42, 47 & 106. Covers for 74, 27 & 24 were used in Greek-II. No. 6(49) was not reissued; no. 4(60-A1) was replaced by no. 109(60-A2).

Market Analysis: Probably $11-22-35, with U. S. 74 possible $17-34-65.

THE EUROPEAN SERIES (1956-1976)
(PC/A2 + 80 New European Titles)

These series for printed and issued together. Greece and Mexico later issued new titles. The full European series consists of about 150 U. S. U. S. PC/A2 titles, ten with new covers. After the U. S. stopped issuing new titles in 1962, this joint European series continued with 80 new titles. The series began with U. S. 49 PC1 four years before it was issued in the U. S. The second interior art for Typee, prepared in the U. S. but never issued here, was issued in foreign language editions. U. S. 168 came out in the European series five years before the U. S. Also, Dr. NO was issued in 1963 in the U. S. by DC Comics as Showcase#43. It received a new painted cover and was issued in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Greece in the Classics series, and in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and The Netherlands in the Detective series. Here are the European country series, with (#/#) = full series titles/new titles:

Iceland (30+/0)	Netherlands (214/72)
France (68/0)	Norway (219/78)
New Zealand (160+/14)	Denmark (227/80)
British (168/14)	Sweden (228/80)
Australia (168/14)	Greece (-/25)
Finland (168/66)	Mexico (-/40+)
Germany (204/65)	

Market Analysis: Regular PCs $2-4-6 or 3-6-9, with early series originals $4-8-12; original of first title $10-20-30. Issues of U. S. nos. 8, 56, 71, 167 & 168 as high as $7-14-21. New PCs of 17, 22, 37, 77, 82 probably $11-22-35; 14, 20 & 73 about $16-32-60. Typee-A2 $12-24-40. New titles start at $10-20-30. Higher value titles: Singleton/Argonauts/Zu Vendi/Custer/Alexander/ Francis Drake/Columbus/Pirate King/Lepanto/Jrny Canada/Jerusalem/Burma/Grail/Mariner/Pimpernal/ Study in Scarlet & Rue Morgue about $13-26-45. Prices listed for foreign language editions. English-language editions worth at least 30% more. Also, Iceland, France & New Zealand are much rarer series than the others, and could be worth as much as 50% more.

THE TOP/STAR LOGO SERIES (1970-1974)

This series was also a joint effort. These were basically Deluxe Editions, larger, bound on the side, heavier paper, with a different title logo in a star instead of a rectangle. So far I have figured out 66 different titles in all the series. With the different format on the front cover, the picture was now more horizontal than vertical. So there are many new covers, varying from slightly redrawn to some completely different beautiful paintings. Here are the countries with no. of titles:

Ireland (2+)	Germany (18)
(Gaelic)	Sweden (50+)
France (11)	Netherlands (63)
Finland (12+)	Denmark (65)

I believe there is also a Norwegian series, but I am waiting on a Norwegian price guide to get the facts. The three short series do not begin at the beginning. The Finnish and French series are rare, and there is only one known copy of the Gaelic series. Overall, T/S series copies are not nearly as common as the regular Classics series.

Market Analysis: most issues $4-8-12, with new covers as high as $7-14-21. Only three really valuable items. Death of Captain Cook only in Danish series $12-24-40; new cover of Black Tulip redrawn $15-30-55; and completely new cover of Westward Ho! $18-36-70. French & Finnish copies 30% more; Gaelic copy $18-36-70.

BELGIUM/NETHERLANDS 1971(?) (6 PC titles) (Star Logo-Regular size) (Gulf Oil Co.)

These are not part of the above joint series. They are regular size, bright orange, but with the star logo. All are U.S. PC/A2 - 147, 2, 134, 1, 10, 106, printed by Gulf Oil Co. to be sold low prices at gas stations in Belgium and The Netherlands. The full set exists in two country versions, the only difference in cover price and the inside address. Only known copies in the U.S. - myself and Dennis Olson.

Market Analysis: each about $12-24-40.

SINGAPORE 1962(?) (10+ PC Titles)

Summary: You thought I forgot this series. It does not really fit in with any grouping. It happened at the same time as the European series and had the same type of titles, but was not connected with it. This black & white interior series lists ten titles - 147, 153, 124, 105, 113, 99, 104, 75, 161 & 50, but at the same time it shows an illustration of 134. The few known copies in the U.S. are from the Gilberton warehouse. The language is called Malay. I am pursuing contacts there.

Market Analysis: probably $11-22-35.

I would be amiss if I did not mention INDIA. I have heard rumors about Indian Classics in English, Sanskrit, Hindustani and Telugua. Two people who lived there back in the 1950's have sworn that the only Classics there were from the U.S., British or Australian series. What I do know about are two copies (property of Mike Sawyer and Charles Brandstetter) with Classics Juniors artwork in a non-Classics series from India, possibly the Omar Chithra Sitra series. On the inside it had the word "Telugua."

Market Analysis: two junior copies $11-22-35.

Many countries, particularly European, issued binders to store their Classics issues in. Most of these were plain with wording stamped on the front. The only one I know of with a picture on it is the Dutch binder with a space-theme cover. Sometimes this is mistaken for a gift box. To really qualify as a gift box, it would have to have illustrations on the cover of particular Classics contained therein. But all-in-all, it is still the most collectible binder.

Market Analysis: plain binders $5-10-15; Dutch picture-cover binder $8-16-24.

The only foreign publication I know of that ever had an article on Classics was the Dutch Illustrated Stripschrift which had a feature article (20 pages) on Classics in 1985. I can send you a xerox of that article for $1.50.

I believe that all 13 countries involved in the European series issued Juniors, with the exception of Iceland. Early British Juniors were called Juniors, but later on they were called Pixi Tales. Most of the foreign Junior series issued about 70 U.S. titles and then issued about 25 new Junior titles. Some series then deteriorated into a cartoon series called Pelefant, about an elephant and an octopus.

Market Analysis: regular editions could not be worth more than $2-4-6. New covers might be $3-6-9 and new titles $5-10-15. Any featuring Pelefant could bring a wopping $1-2-3. Again, English language copies could be 30% more. Some rare country series could also be more.

Most of the European countries issued most of the Special Editions. I have the full list for a few countries, and there is only slight variance. There are a couple of new covers in particular series. But the real kicker is that Gilberton prepared artwork for another Special that never got issued here. It was World War I with artwork by Kirby/Crandall/Evans. It only exists in foreign language Special series.

Market Analysis: regular editions would be about $5-10-15. New covers perhaps $7-14-21, and World War I could be as high as $13-26-45.

Most European countries issued the same 34 World Around Us titles. At least three of them had new covers, and eight were new titles. But two of the eight were only partially new. U.S. WAU had more pages, with some serialized art stories in the back. Foreign WAU were only 48 pages, but they took some of that serialized art, added a few pages and a cover, and presto! out came two new titles - D-Day & Life on other Planets? Another new title was artwork prepared in the U.S. - The Sea, and the five foreign WAU were Great Escapes, Northwest Passage, Tarters, Cossacks, and Disasters.

Market Analysis: regular editions $4-8-12, new covers $6-12-18, new titles $10-20-30.

CLASSICS-RELATED SERIES

Many foreign countries issued other series similar to Classics, including Mexico, India, The Philippines, England, France, Germany, The Netherlands, and Italy. We have limited info on most of them. Here we will look at two in particular. The first series is Classics in Pictures. This British series from 1949 copied the Classics format is producing 12 titles, Henry V, Barnaby Rudge, and ten U.S. Classics titles - 23, 2, 128, 14, 64, 6, 32, 1, 100 & 68. This version of Mutiny on the Bounty was actually taken from Captain Bligh's journal. Many years later these were reprinted as Famous Stories in Pictures, with new covers.

Market Analysis: Classics in Pictures would be $20-40-80; reprints possibly $15-30-55.

A Spanish Classics-related series was put together in the early 1970's. It came to the U.S. in 1977 as 24 King Classics. But the most complete series was the Dutch Toppers in Strip, with 64 Classics titles, then deteriorating into a western series. This series was also issued in Germany, Denmark, and Greece. The overall series had nearly 30 titles not in the Classics Illustrated series. I lack details on the Greek series. The Danish series only had four titles. The official German series had 10 titles, but many other editions with art and covers from this series were issued in three other German series. Germany is full of series related to Classics. But the Dutch series came in five beautiful binders, each containing 16 Toppers in Strip. Each binder had very nice photo covers illustrating the covers of the 16 issued contained therein. They are beautiful. The artwork in this series has smaller panels and more story details, but their best feature is the beautiful painted covers.

Market Analysis: individual issues might vary between $2-4-6 and $4-8-12, depending on the particular title and country series. The Dutch illustrated display binders could go as high as $13-26-45. And with that we are done.

Harry Hopkins, Editor of the Fandom Directory 7761 Asterella Ct., Dept. CBG, Springfield, VA 22152-3133 (703)644-7353/4. Edition 9 is now available $10.95 + $1.50 shipping. Harry needs more listings (free) of Classics enthusiasts, U.S. & foreign. Write to Harry with address, phone & types of comics you collect.

Bob Levy, 2456 E. 18th St., Brooklyn, NY 11235 U.S. Classics for sale-Classic Comics/Classics Illustrated: New list of originals, reprints, special issues, WAU's, Juniors, artwork, more! Priced to sell! Send SASE for catalog. Also, write if you are wanting to sell Classics.

Dan Malan, 7519 Lindbergh Dr., St. Louis, MO 63117 (314)781-2319. Wants(U.S.)-8(14),16(TC), 49(166)stiff, 60(62-R). Foreign-Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, Singapore, India(?), Iceland, New Zealand, Ireland(Gaelic), Italy, France + early series: Germany/Norway/Greece/Australia + British(LDC/Deluxe/DD) + many others. Nearly 2,000 U.S./foreign Classics for sale or trade.

Bill McLinn, 1 Third St. NE, Ste 7, Washington, DC 20002. Wants-(O)s prefer F+ 1-6,10,13,26,27. Fam. Auth. 1,3,7,9,12,13. For Sale or Trade (O)s: 17. VF-80, 18(I)F50, 20(I)F+60, 22(I)VG25, 38F-25, 40. G-25, 54. G4, 55. F-13, 56. VG-11, 57. F-8, 64. VG-7, 66. VF-35. CCr: 3(28)F-10, 5(28)VF-15, 23(30)F+13, 26(30)VF-45, 27(30)F-10, LDCr: 2(89)F3, 12(89)F3, 16(62)VF5, 17(60)F+4, 19(89)VF-4, 26(60)F5, 33(53)F50, 42(93)F-2, 43(62)VF-100, 45(64)F7.

Svend Mondrup, TRanegardsvej 27, 2900 Hellerup, Denmark. For sale (not including shipping cost) Danish Comic Book Price Guide (Hardbound) $25. Danish Classics ($8 each, ave cond. FN) with U.S. title equivalent in (#): 54(132),55(119), 63(141),69(88),70(94),77(146),80(62),85(148), 87(149),90(13),91(1),94(150),103(98),106(70), 107(32),108(156),111(93),112(157),115(25), 118(31),130(56),141(38),142(109),143(75), 144(165),154(76). Write for further details.

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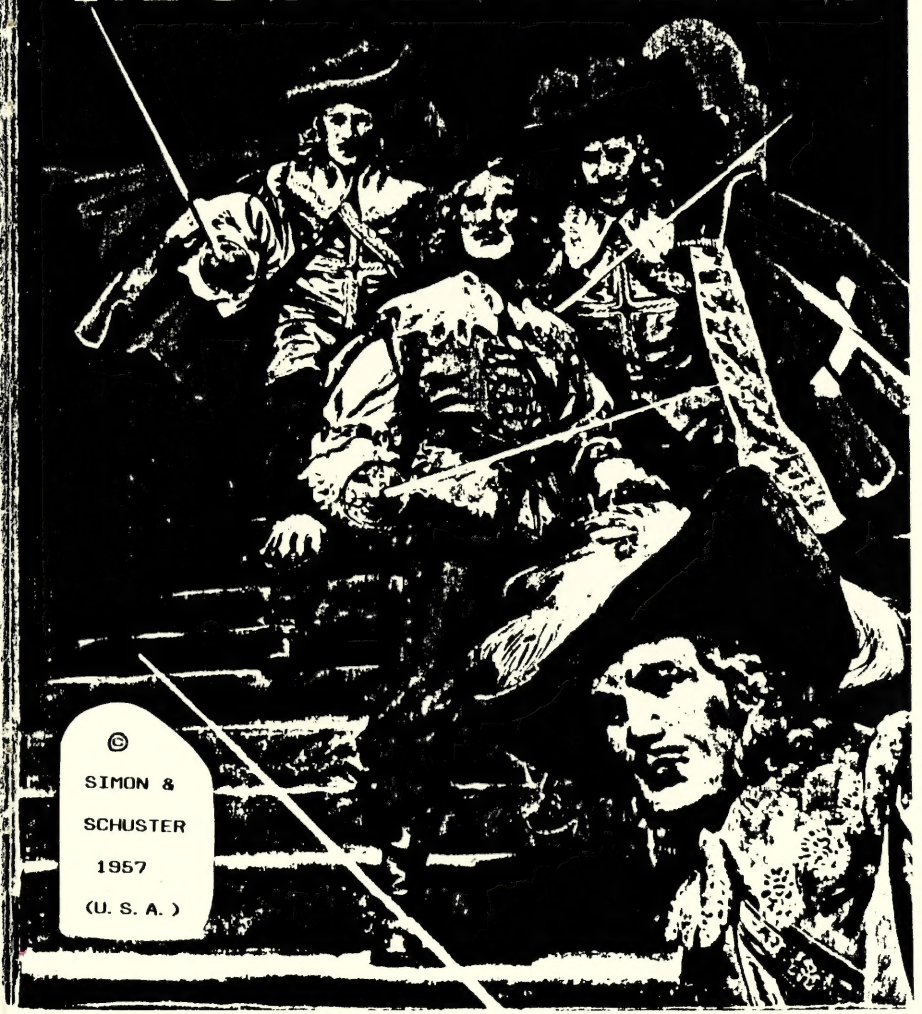

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THE WORLDWIDE CLASSICS NEWSLETTER

Bi-monthly publication printed and issued from St. Louis, MO.
Individual copies postpaid: U. S. /Canada $1. 50; Overseas $2. 00
Annual Subscription (6 issues): U. S. /Canada $8; Overseas $10.
Ad rates: Free 7-line ad to annual subscribers;
Additional space available at $1. 00 per line.
Dan Malan, Editor/Publisher

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